PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT	Attorney Docket	GUID-003CON3
	First Named	Charles S. Taylor
	Application Number	Unassigned (Continuation of 09/440,106, filed on November 15, 1999)
Address to: Box Patent Application Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231	Filing Date	Herewith (December 14, 2001)
	Group Art Unit	Unassigned
	Examiner Name	Unassigned
	Title: *Surgical Devices for Imposing a Negative Pressure to Stabilize Cardiac Tissue During Surgery*	

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, after the title, please insert the following new paragraph:

(New) This application is a continuation of co-pending Application Serial No. 09/440,106, filed on November 15, 1999, which is a divisional of Application Serial No. 08/870,687 filed on June 6, 1997 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,032,672), which is a divisional of Application Serial No. 08/603,328 filed on February 20, 1996 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,727,569). The priority of these applications is expressly claimed and the disclosure of the applications are hereby incorporated by reference in their entireties.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 1 as follows:

(Amended) and is applied at several points over the surface of the heart proximate to or surrounding the portion of the heart whose position is desired to be fixed during the procedure. The instruments feature several suction ports which are brought into contact with the heart, followed by the application of a negative pressure through the instrument, to fix the position of the tissue based on the placement of the instrument. The instruments may also contain a sealed, airtight pressure conducting chamber for operably connecting to a pressure inlet for communicating the negative pressure to the suction ports. Alternatively, each suction port may have a dedicated vacuum line attached thereto.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 2 as follows: